

## WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:  
Mike Gowrylow  
(360) 486-2113

### **Taxable Retail Sales Rise 1.2% During First Quarter 2003**

**OLYMPIA**, Wash., August 13, 2003—Taxable retail sales were slightly stronger in the first quarter of 2003 than during the same period in 2002, but below 2001 results, according to figures released by the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Sales reported by Washington businesses increased 1.2 percent to \$19.18 billion from \$18.96 billion for first quarter of 2002. However, they were 1.5 percent below the \$19.48 billion in sales recorded during the first quarter of 2001.

Retail trade continued to be stronger than overall taxable retail sales. Retail trade was up 3.7 percent to \$10.12 billion, compared to \$9.75 billion in 2002 and \$9.63 billion in 2001. Retail trade tracks sales at retail stores only and excludes such sectors as contracting. It better reflects consumer purchasing.

King County dropped 1.7 percent in taxable retail sales although retail trade was up 1.8 percent.



Snohomish County experienced a 2.4 percent gain in taxable retail sales and a 4.0 percent increase in retail trade. Pierce County was up 5.4 percent overall and 6.1 percent in retail trade. In Eastern

Washington, Spokane County climbed 3.6 percent in taxable retail sales and 3.8 percent in retail trade.

Among major cities, Seattle's taxable retail sales fell 4 percent, while retail trade declined 0.7 percent. Tacoma was up 2.8 percent overall and 5.5 percent higher in retail trade. Everett dropped 2.9 percent overall but was up 1.8 percent in retail trade. In Eastern Washington, Spokane rose 4.8 percent overall and gained 2.2 percent in retail trade.

Results for all counties and cities, including breakdowns by industry sector, are available [here](#). Users can compare industry-level data by creating separate tables for the first quarters of 2003 and 2002, or any other period.

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**Editor's Note:** You can now receive Department of Revenue news releases by [email](#).



## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY COUNTY

### All Taxable Retail Sales\*

### Retail Trade Only\*\*

(\$000) add three digits to all figures

	1st Quarter 02	1st Quarter 03	Change	1st Quarter 02	1st Quarter 03	Change
Adams	\$32,604	\$33,357	2.3%	\$12,398	\$14,234	14.8%
Asotin	28,951	29,913	3.3%	19,096	18,383	-3.7%
Benton	424,031	435,918	2.8%	246,418	260,575	5.7%
Chelan	196,852	219,408	11.5%	104,994	113,026	7.6%
Clallam	151,314	163,162	7.8%	86,422	89,142	3.1%
Clark	767,396	812,376	5.9%	378,141	410,703	8.6%
Columbia	5,590	5,247	-6.1%	2,478	2,068	-16.5%
Cowlitz	244,948	245,413	0.2%	134,192	141,624	5.5%
Douglas	61,920	63,925	3.2%	39,222	40,855	4.2%
Ferry	4,980	4,601	-7.6%	2,138	2,431	13.7%
Franklin	152,149	165,221	8.6%	64,636	72,518	12.2%
Garfield	2,845	3,073	8.0%	1,086	1,372	26.3%
Grant	154,306	164,175	6.4%	75,001	79,746	6.3%
Grays Harbor	181,317	148,204	-18.3%	81,335	82,581	1.5%
Island	130,187	132,312	1.6%	57,355	64,639	12.7%
Jefferson	59,685	60,581	1.5%	25,405	24,739	-2.6%
King	7,951,308	7,818,339	-1.7%	3,713,608	3,780,193	1.8%
Kitsap	568,221	589,048	3.7%	371,849	371,802	0.0%
Kittitas	82,332	88,309	7.3%	41,024	41,910	2.2%
Klickitat	40,645	22,013	-45.8%	7,961	7,087	-11.0%
Lewis	287,426	205,578	-28.5%	97,646	102,045	4.5%
Lincoln	11,081	13,473	21.6%	4,673	4,685	0.3%
Mason	79,036	83,826	6.1%	39,544	41,629	5.3%
Okanagan	59,171	60,974	3.0%	32,778	32,358	-1.3%
Pacific	27,282	27,829	2.0%	12,532	12,639	0.9%
Pend Oreille	9,646	10,570	9.6%	4,549	5,089	11.9%
Pierce	1,998,635	2,106,325	5.4%	1,134,888	1,204,148	6.1%
San Juan	54,111	53,495	-1.1%	15,086	16,459	9.1%
Skagit	386,186	402,433	4.2%	242,739	253,503	4.4%
Skamania	12,909	13,793	6.8%	2,059	2,696	30.9%
Snohomish	1,755,633	1,798,223	2.4%	1,003,703	1,044,347	4.0%
Spokane	1,210,450	1,254,606	3.6%	699,303	726,213	3.8%
Stevens	46,939	50,234	7.0%	26,704	26,636	-0.3%
Thurston	637,778	674,748	5.8%	356,994	376,633	5.5%
Wahkiakum	3,926	3,427	-12.7%	1,137	985	-13.4%
Walla Walla	118,747	116,508	-1.9%	56,568	56,099	-0.8%
Whatcom	466,143	523,616	12.3%	259,905	276,480	6.4%
Whitman	70,249	69,216	-1.5%	32,304	30,993	-4.1%
Yakima	479,888	501,974	4.6%	265,685	283,713	6.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$18,956,817</b>	<b>\$19,175,443</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>\$9,753,556</b>	<b>\$10,116,978</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

\*All taxable retail sales includes retailing, services, contracting (construction), manufacturing, transportation, communications, utilities, wholesaling, finance, insurance, real estate and others. Sales taxes from contracting can be highly volatile.

\*\*Retail Trade includes taxable sales of building materials and hardware, general merchandise, food, auto dealers, apparel, furnishings, eating/drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores. This figure better represents consumer purchases.

## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY SELECTED CITIES

	All Taxable Retail Sales*			Retail Trade Only**		
	(\$000) add three digits to all figures					
	1st Quarter 02	1st Quarter 03	Change	1st Quarter 02	1st Quarter 03	Change
Aberdeen	\$75,131	\$ 82,010	9.2%	\$52,490	\$ 53,955	2.8%
Auburn	308,396	315,737	2.4%	169,815	173,162	2.0%
Bellevue	953,799	906,845	-4.9%	503,668	526,847	4.6%
Bellingham	329,074	363,392	10.4%	203,081	215,318	6.0%
Bremerton	143,695	144,608	0.6%	99,522	92,184	-7.4%
Camas	28,281	28,905	2.2%	8,455	8,978	6.2%
Centralia	55,987	51,172	-8.6%	30,768	31,377	2.0%
Chehalis	61,482	67,480	9.8%	43,377	47,100	8.6%
Colville	27,543	28,668	4.1%	19,049	18,372	-3.6%
Des Moines	36,464	35,413	-2.9%	20,593	19,978	-3.0%
Edmonds	102,751	111,297	8.3%	65,213	68,153	4.5%
Ellensburg	54,619	57,889	6.0%	31,542	32,652	3.5%
Everett	473,377	459,446	-2.9%	259,407	264,007	1.8%
Federal Way	268,770	261,973	-2.5%	176,777	173,179	-2.0%
Fife	133,427	132,200	-0.9%	81,624	86,895	6.5%
Issaquah	211,751	214,959	1.5%	130,736	128,910	-1.4%
Kelso	43,546	49,404	13.5%	26,869	28,910	7.6%
Kennewick	260,416	264,544	1.6%	168,868	177,271	5.0%
Kent	495,536	458,300	-7.5%	189,570	197,370	4.1%
Kirkland	286,021	298,877	4.5%	168,920	172,383	2.0%
Lacey	126,676	122,613	-3.2%	69,941	79,435	13.6%
Longview	148,200	142,580	-3.8%	84,427	88,544	4.9%
Lynnwood	372,840	384,012	3.0%	273,722	276,725	1.1%
Marysville	88,275	88,366	0.1%	49,145	50,265	2.3%
Mercer Island	55,518	52,405	-5.6%	12,177	11,151	-8.4%
Moses Lake	81,737	85,327	4.4%	46,571	50,196	7.8%
Mount Vernon	105,476	110,081	4.4%	69,782	68,559	-1.8%
Mountlake Terrace	32,891	31,797	-3.3%	13,956	15,067	8.0%
Oak Harbor	59,064	62,352	5.6%	36,980	39,305	6.3%
Olympia	332,292	355,964	7.1%	210,353	214,731	2.1%
Omak	21,863	22,117	1.2%	16,050	15,948	-0.6%
Pasco	137,979	149,478	8.3%	62,529	69,751	11.6%
Port Angeles	57,771	56,852	-1.6%	30,051	30,520	1.6%
Port Townsend	31,132	32,713	5.1%	15,682	14,409	-8.1%
Pullman	51,199	49,087	-4.1%	26,497	25,242	-4.7%
Puyallup	309,158	324,466	5.0%	227,495	235,893	3.7%
Redmond	364,538	361,707	-0.8%	149,138	160,191	7.4%
Renton	383,250	394,850	3.0%	221,058	224,599	1.6%
Richland	123,611	125,126	1.2%	62,671	68,596	9.5%
SeaTac	161,240	178,568	10.7%	30,713	27,957	-9.0%
Seattle	2,943,543	2,825,549	-4.0%	1,200,240	1,191,342	-0.7%
Shelton	37,161	38,914	4.7%	23,191	22,106	-4.7%
Spokane	684,805	717,411	4.8%	380,944	389,403	2.2%
Sunnyside	45,741	44,946	-1.7%	28,445	28,701	0.9%
Tacoma	805,927	828,868	2.8%	455,920	480,886	5.5%
Tukwila	376,993	405,821	7.6%	257,056	269,638	4.9%
Vancouver	430,494	464,414	7.9%	225,949	249,669	10.5%
Walla Walla	88,997	86,090	-3.3%	47,392	46,369	-2.2%
Wenatchee	122,253	133,172	8.9%	72,893	77,497	6.3%
Yakima	272,265	281,492	3.4%	157,920	161,691	2.4%

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